

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/769,923

Examiner

Thierry L. Pham

Applicant(s)

ABOUJAOUDE ET AL.

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an Amendment filed on 4/16/07 and authorized Examiner's amendment dated 7/12/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-11, 13-18 are allowed (renumbered as claims 1-15).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 4/16/07 and authorized Examiner's amendment dated 7/12/07.
- As the results of authorized Examiner's amendment, claims 3, 9, 12 have been canceled; claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-11, 13-18 are allowed, renumbered as claims 1-15.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-11, 13-18 are allowed (renumbered as claims 1-15).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior arts (US 5144452 to Abuyama and EP 996080 to Dawe et al) of record teach a method and a system for *manually* duplicating a selected image a number of times on a single print medium, however, the cited prior arts of record fail to teach and/or suggest *automatically* scanning document containing image data without user's pre-modifying the input document, *automatically* determining a location of the at least portion of the input document containing the image data, and to *automatically extracting* the image from the at least portion of the input document for the purpose of duplication and in combinations of other features as cited in independent claims 1, 5, and 14 (renumbered as claims 1, 4, and 11 respectively). The examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine any of prior arts that teaches the above limitations and in combinations of other features cited in claims 1, 5, and 14 (renumbered as claims 1, 4, and 11 respectively).

Conclusion

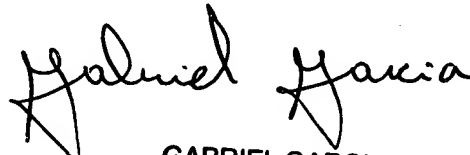
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham



**GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher Wheeler on 7/13/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims

1. (Currently Amended). A method of forming an output image in an image forming system, comprising:

scanning at least a portion of an input document containing image data, without a user pre-modifying the input document;

automatically determining a location of the at least the portion of the input document containing image data within the input document;

automatically extracting the image from the at least portion of the input document;

automatically forming a duplicate image containing at least a specific portion of the at least the portion of the input document containing image data to exclude non-image portions of the input document;

automatically determining dimensions of the duplicate image;

automatically determining the number of times the duplicate image can be replicated on a single output medium based on the predetermined dimensions;

automatically replicating the duplicate image a select number of times up to the determined number of times to form an output image on the single output medium.

5. (Currently amended). A method of forming an output image in an image forming system, comprising:

obtaining input image data relating to an original portion of an input document containing image data, without a user pre-modifying the input document and based at least partially on the instructions;

automatically determining a location of the original portion of the input document containing image data within the input document;

automatically extracting the image from the at least portion of the input document;

automatically forming a duplicate image containing at least a specific portion of the original portion of the input document containing image data to exclude non-image portions of the input document;

automatically determining the number of times the duplicate image can be replicated on a single output medium based on the determined dimensions;

forming an output image comprising only the duplicate image replicated one or more times on a single printing medium up to the determined number of times, as directed by the instructions.

14. (Currently amended) An image forming system, comprising:

an image input stage for receiving image data corresponding to at least a portion of an input document, without a user pre-modifying the input document;

a controller for automatically determining a location of the at least the portion of the input document containing image data, automatically extracting the image from the at least portion of the input document, automatically forming a duplicate image containing at least a specific portion of the at least the portion of the input document containing image data to exclude non-image portions of the input document, and automatically determining dimensions of the duplicate image;

an image multiplier for automatically determining a number of times the duplicate image can be formed on a printing medium substrate based on the determined dimensions;

a control stage for automatically selecting at least a portion of the duplicate image and replicating only the portion of the duplicate image a predetermined number of times up to the determined number to form an output image; and

an image output stage for automatically producing the output image on the single printing medium substrate.